

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Christophe Pierrat and Youping Zhang

Assignee: Synopsys, Inc.

Title: STRUCTURE AND METHOD OF CORRECTING PROXIMITY
EFFECTS IN A TRI-TONE ATTENUATED PHASE-SHIFTING
MASK

Serial No.: 10/658,933 File Date: September 9, 2003

Examiner: Cuong V. Luu Art Unit: 2128

Docket No.: NTI-007-1D

Date: August 24, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Initial Comments:

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by "High Transmission Attenuated PSM" (Kachwala). Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and further rewritten to overcome the 101 and 112 rejections.

Claims 1-8 are amended herein.